

with intellectual disabilities enrolled in comprehensive programs on their campus.

Madam Chairman, I have seen firsthand how IDEA has benefited my own son, Alex, who is a student at Lakewood Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. Alex, who is 12 years old, has Downs Syndrome, and he has made significant academic progress and has been provided with many of the same educational opportunities as his peers as a result of IDEA. I know that IDEA will serve as an incredible opportunity for Alex throughout his K-12 education.

However, I also realize that IDEA will not be there to serve his needs after high school. Therefore, I am very pleased to stand here today in recognition of those colleges and universities who are filling the post-IDEA void for so many young Americans. I am proud to offer this amendment that will provide many young adults with intellectual disabilities the ability to access the vital postsecondary programs that lead to a very fulfilling life.

Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON), the chairman of the committee.

Mr. McKEON. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding. And I want to thank him for his leadership on this issue. We have worked together on this issue before. I am getting toward the end of my life. I am a lot older than a lot of the people around here. But in my youth, I remember when families that had children with Downs Syndrome used to keep them out of sight. And we have made so much progress. And I have a nephew that has Downs Syndrome, and I see the love that he has brought into their family. He is 12 also. And to think that we have come so far and yet we have an opportunity to go further. And this amendment makes that possible. And I just want to thank the gentleman for his efforts in this, and on behalf of all children with Downs Syndrome to give them the opportunity to go as far as they can, because I think that is something that, again, improves and enhances the bill. And I appreciate the gentleman's efforts.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman for offering this amendment. I think it is an important addition to this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In addition to the chairman's remarks, I would like to add, if I could, that from time to time, my son, Alex, is on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I believe that Alex is a fine representation, as well as the Members of this body, who take time to recognize the individual and special talents that not only Alex possesses as a result of him being a young adult with Downs Syndrome, but also his love that he extends to people. And this body has always gone out of their way to express to Alex and make him feel like he was a part of this body also.

And I would thank the gentleman, both the gentlemen from California, not only for their agreement with this bill today, but also I think it extends the knowledge that this body has with the capacity to understand that thousands of other families that have their own Alex, that they, if their children have the ability to do something when they get out of high school, that there would be a program like this. And so I would like to thank the ranking member and the chairman of our committee.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. All time having expired, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS).

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. McKEON. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS) having assumed the chair, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later today.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE REGARDING RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 736) expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that legal action in Afghanistan against citizens who have already converted or plan to convert to other religions is deplorable and unjust.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 736

Whereas the United States, at great cost in blood and treasure, helped the people of Afghanistan liberate themselves from the tyranny of the Taliban and adopt free institutions and practices, including respect for rule of law and internationally recognized human rights;

Whereas the preamble of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan affirms that the people of Afghanistan are "for creation of a civil society free of oppression, atrocity, discrimination, and violence and based on the rule of law, social justice, protection of human rights, and dignity, and ensuring the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people";

Whereas Article 7 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan provides that "the state shall observe the United Nations Charter, inter-state agreements, as well as international treaties to which Afghanistan has joined, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," which includes the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion and the freedom to change one's religion or belief;

Whereas Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Afghanistan has acceded, provides that "[e]veryone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion . . . [t]his right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching"; and

Whereas the President of the United States has expressed his concern about the Abdul Rahman apostasy case, stating that "[i]t is deeply troubling that a country we helped liberate would hold a person to account, because they chose a particular religion over another": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the enforcement of laws against apostasy;

(2) requests the President to continue to work with the Government of Afghanistan to establish better protections for religious minorities, including converts to minority religions, and to enhance human rights protections in Afghanistan; and

(3) calls upon the Government of Afghanistan, and especially President Hamid Karzai, to continue to conform Afghan laws to Afghanistan's international human rights treaty obligations, thereby protecting Afghan citizens who have converted or plan to convert to other religions from prosecution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.